

1. (Twice amended) An isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase from *Nicotiana tabacum*, and derivatives thereof, tolerant to photobleaching herbicide, comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2 or a mutated peptide having deletion, addition, or substitution of one or more amino acids in the above amino acid sequence and having (1) an enzyme activity equivalent to that of said protoporphyrinogen oxidase and (2) tolerance to photobleaching herbicide equivalent to that of said protoporphyrinogen oxidase,

wherein said photobleaching herbicide is a pyrazole compound selected from the group consisting of ethyl 2-chloro-5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-4-fluorophenoxyacetate, ethyl 2-[5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-2,4-dichlorophenylamino]propionate, 4-chloro-3-[4-chloro-2-fluoro-5-methoxyphenyl]-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole, 4-chloro-3-[4-chloro-2-fluoro-5-(2-propynyl)oxyphenyl]-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole, ethyl 2-[2-chloro-5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-4-fluorophenoxy]propionate, 1-methylethyl 5-[4-bromo-1-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-yl]-2-chloro-4-benzoate, and 4-chloro-3-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole.

2. (Previously amended) The isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase tolerant to photobleaching herbicide and derivatives thereof of claim 1, comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, wherein one or more amino acids is deleted and the polypeptide has an enzyme activity equivalent to that of said protoporphyrinogen oxidase tolerant to photobleaching herbicide.

5. (Previously amended) The isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

8. (Twice amended) The isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase according to claim 1, wherein the photobleaching herbicide is ethyl 2-chloro-5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-4-fluorophenoxyacetate.